

The Sumter Banner.

DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NEWS, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

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"God—and our Father's Land."

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AGRICULTURAL.

Guano and Plaster on Corn and Clover.

We promised our subscribers to give them, in our present number, some account of an experiment made by us in the course of the last year, with Guano and Plaster on corn and clover. The corn land experimented on, was ten acres of a field of about thirty—the whole much exhausted, and turned out some years since, and hence grown up in sedge and poverty grass. That part manured we considered the poorest part of the field. In the previous winter the land was plowed with one of Ruggles, Norse, & Mason's Centre draft plows, which run from 5 to 6 inches deep, and completely reversed the sod. This plow was followed by a one-horse sub-soil grasper, which run some three or four inches deeper, making in the whole from eight to ten inches. The soil of the part experimented on, is somewhat light, having a due admixture of sand. The subsoil a stiff red clay. The land thus prepared lay until the usual time of planting, when it was laid off with a short narrow plow, at a distance of five feet distance, and in this furrow, the corn was planted three feet apart on the row, and covered by ridging lightly on it; care being taken not to disturb the light coat of vegetable matter that had been buried by the turning plow. And we will here state that, for the same reason the crop was cultivated altogether superficially with the cultivator and sweep one time each, with one hoeing. Mark this brother farmers, and reflect how much labor might be saved in the culture of our crops by properly preparing the land. For we assure you, from our own experience, that land having but a light coat of vegetable matter on it, thus prepared will need no plow in cultivating the crop—for, even if it is stiff and adhesive, it will not run to the surface as it would in a second, third, or fourth year.

That forms of the soil, and should be broken with a cultivator, harrow, or sweep only; and with either of which the ground may be passed over rapidly and with comparatively light labor to both men and horse. Excuse this digression, and we will proceed to state how our manure was prepared, applied, and the results. In preparing our compost we used the Peruvian guano and plaster of Paris, ground, coal dust, or rather the scrapings from the coal-house floor, which was passed through a coarse sieve, and leached ashes, in the following order and proportions. First, a bushel of coal dust (as we shall term it) spread to about two inches thickness; second, one gallon (1-2 peck) guano, spread uniformly over the coal bed; third, the same quantity (probably twice as much as was necessary) of plaster; fourth, one bushel of coal dust; fifth, half a bushel of leached ashes. The same course was continued until the quantity of guano and plaster procured was exhausted. The heap thus formed, remained undisturbed for two weeks, when it was shovelled over—which we were convinced at the time should have been done earlier, in order to prevent the setting of the plaster, which we were not able again to reduce to a powder. This setting we presume was occasioned by the moisture imbibed from the damp coal dust, and might have been prevented by shovelling over the heap immediately after it was finished.

THE APPLICATIONS.—Of this mixture we spread in a circle of 18 to 24 inches diameter, around each hill of corn, when from six inches to a foot high, one full, and followed with a light running cultivator, as near on each side of the corn as could be not to tear it up. This partially covered and mixed the compost with the soil. In this state it was left, though a drought of some weeks, without apparent benefit. After the first rain, however, we saw that the corn was taking the start of that in the same field not manured. It continued to gain on it to the maturity of the crop, and resulted in a gain of 33 per cent. over the unmanured portion. Which was ascertained by gathering two rows manured, leaving two, one manured and one unmanured, and gathering the next two unmanured. The corn was measured in the ear only and the manured rows not only measured more, but was better in appearance than that from the unmanured rows.

By calculation it will be ascertained that the quantity of both guano and plaster applied to the hill, was but the one eleventh part, or a jill, or one twenty-second part of a jill of each. Consequently, there being 292 hills, five by three, in an acre, it will require about half a bushel of each guano and plaster to an acre.

CLOVER.—Of the above mixture we spread five and a half bushels on one acre of red clover, which was equal to

a peck each of guano and plaster, and which resulted in a most decided improvement of the crop. We regret that we did not leave a portion unmanured that we might have ascertained the difference in the product. Judging from appearances however we have little doubt but that it was doubled by the application.—*Farmer & Planter.*

IMPORTANCE OF COAL DUST.—Science has spoken the importance of carbon, and we now state that a soil without carbon rarely, if ever produces a perfect plant. Our object is not at present to show its importance as a necessary constituent of a good soil, but to awaken in the mind, the value of this element in the economy of farm management. We see thousands of loads of this useful matter, lying about, considered by many, as a cumberer of the ground.

What we are going to say of its value, we say knowingly, and we appeal to all who have coal dust at their command, to use and test it.

Carbon is a porous body and readily absorbs ammonia, (of the importance of ammonia we need say nothing,) this being the fact, its utility is clearly established, and its application as clearly pointed out. The annual loss of ammonia from the cow pen, stables, horse lots &c., during the year, is very great. This prodigality in one of the principle elements in the pabulum (food) of plants, can easily be arrested by use of coal dust, and so fixed that when put on the soil, will supply the necessary amount required by the plant. Our manner of doing this is as follows: we cover the floor of every stable about four inches thick, then cover to any depth with leaves from the forest, pine straw, or any other organic roughness we may

have, and in a few days a certain quantity has accumulated we take it out and pen it; if we have coal dust enough, we cover the top of the pen with it, this keeps the heat in and the water from rains out, preventing leaching, and other loss, and saves a great amount of weight in hauling out.

HOGS PACKED IN THE WEST.—The returns from the far West, viz: Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa, have not yet been reported to any considerable extent. Below we give the aggregate of all the received up to this time, not deeming it important to publish any further details until we are able to present the full statement:

Ohio	1851-52	1852-53
Indiana	536,308	564,962
Illinois	329,087	464,833
Kentucky	82,085	106,708
Iowa	205,600	338,300
Missouri	15,000	22,500
Tennessee	52,080	67,000
	10,000	32,000

Total - 1,230,880 1,596,302
Increase - 365,422

THE RICHEST MINE.—The manures applied to the soil of England amounts to three hundred millions of dollars; being more than the value of the whole of its foreign commerce; yet the grateful soil yields back with interest all that is thus lavished upon it. And so it would be here if we would only trust the soil with any portion of our capital. But this we rarely do. A farmer who has made any money, spends it not in his business, but in some other occupation. He buys more land when he ought to buy more manure; or he puts out his money in some joint stock company, to convert sunshine into moonshine—or he buys shares in some gold or lead mine. Rely upon it, our richest mine is the barnyard, and whatever temptations stocks or shares may offer, the best investment for a farmer is live stock and plowshares.—*Agriculturist.*

INDIAN BREAD.—An exchange gives the following receipt for making the celebrated St. Charles Indian bread, as prepared at the St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans—Beat two eggs very light, mix alternately with one pint of sour milk, or buttermilk, and one pint of fine indian meal, melt one table spoonful of butter and add to the mixture, dissolve one table spoonful of soda, saleratus, &c., in a small portion of the milk, and add to the mixture the last thing, beat in a pan and bake very hard in a quick oven.

A MODEL SPEECH.—Here is a model speech, made by the President of the Northamptonshire (England) Farming and Grazing Society, on presenting a prize cup to a young man:

"Now, young man, take that cup, and remember also to plough deep and drink shallow."

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Gallant and a Noble Deed.

After the fall of the castle of Chapultepec, and the battery at its foot so gallantly attacked on the morning of the 13th of September, 1847, by Generals Pillow and Quitman—the latter's command, consisting of his own division, and General Persifer F. Smith's brigade of Twigg's division of veterans, moved in pursuit of the retreating Mexicans, on the Belen causeway, and to the attack of the Garita of that name, which is one of the western gates of the city of Mexico. After storming a battery with several pieces of artillery in position, which had been constructed across the causeway, at about 700 yards in advance of the one at the Garita, the command marched rapidly to the attack of the latter position, which was also gallantly carried, after a sharp and severe contest. Gen. Quitman and Lieutenant Stewart, of the Rifle Regiment, (the latter now deceased, and than whom there was not a more gallant or meritorious young officer in the whole army,) being the first to mount the parapets of the battery, at about 1-4 P. M., Gen. Quitman waived his pocket handkerchief thereon, to proclaim that he had at last entered the ancient capital of the Aztecs.

The latter position being under the command of a great many guns, in battery, not over 350 yards distant, at the citadel, the Paseo, and on the right of the aqueduct leading to the city, which were all firing together with grape, canister and hollow shot, it became difficult for awhile to put under shelter of the captured battery and Garita house, the troops who had so gallantly stormed them, and which could not at that time be pushed any further into the city against such strong odds, without jeopardizing, in a measure, the results of the brilliant achievements of that day.

Whilst lying down, I, with several other officers of his command, I saw him perform one of the coolest and most gallant acts of the whole war. I mean, as a matter of course, of those which came under my own observation.

The Belen causeway is a road about 120 feet wide, leading from the castle of Chapultepec to the city of Mexico, and formed with the earth taken from a canal on each side of it, 20 feet wide, by 6 or 8 feet in depth. It is planted with two rows of tall poplars on each side of it, and is divided in two by a stone aqueduct, built on arches, and conveying the waters from the hills on the west of the city into it. The aqueduct played quite an important part in our attack of the batteries on each side of it and enfilading the causeway.

Between the one at the Garita house and the aqueduct, there was an opening of twelve feet through which carriages, carts, &c., were allowed to pass when going to or coming from Chapultepec. This opening was completely swept and enfiladed with grape and canister, by some of the guns of the citadel, and by the fire of their sharpshooters from behind the arches of the aqueduct, under the protection of the former, so that it was a matter of life and death to pass this Thermopylae in going from one side of our position to the other, and in which the latter (Death) had by far all the chances in his favor. One of the General's officers, in endeavoring to pass this opening, started diagonally across it, and leisurely, instead of taking the shortest line and at double quick time. He was told at once to run, to get out of this dangerous and murderous pass as quickly as possible; but he seemed to be perfectly indifferent to the shower of projectiles which were passing about him at the time. He had not proceeded far, however, on his dangerous walk, when he received a shot in the side, which killed him at once. He raised himself once or twice on his elbow, as though endeavoring to get up, but without uttering a word or a groan. Gen. Smith immediately ordered a party to go and bring that wounded man! Several soldiers jumped up and stepped eagerly to his rescue; but they had no sooner got to that fatal opening, than they came to a sudden stop, the fate of each one seeming to stare him in the face.—Gen. S. immediately repeated the order in a little firmer voice, but in hardly a more elevated tone, which made them advance a step or two; but they halted again, to await a more favorable opportunity to get to their comrade.

The General then got up unbacked his sabre, and without uttering another word or giving another order, quietly marched to his wounded comrade, caught hold of him by his shoulders, and commenced dragging him under cover. In an instant, as though impelled by an electric shock, officers and men all rushed to his aid, and never

before, I dare say, was a wounded soldier carried off of a field of battle by such gallant hands. But, strange to say, notwithstanding the critical position in which they all were, an invisible hand seemed to be extended over them, for not one of them was hurt—the enemy having about that time left a short interval between their discharges of artillery and musketry, as they occasionally did, to allow the smoke to be blown away. They had, however, only brought in a corpse, for he had hardly been laid under cover of the parapet of the battery, when it gasped two or three times for breath—a little white foam, tinged with blood, appeared around the mouth of the body, and he had ceased to live! Such is the secret of General Smith's popularity with his officers and men.

AS EYE-WITNESS.

Paper Mills at Bath, S. C.

The following very interesting description of the Paper Mill at Bath, on the railroad, six miles from Hamburg, we copy from the Charleston Standard:

The waters of Horse Creek are destined to be celebrated in the history of South Carolina manufactures. Besides their grist and saw mills, more numerous probably than that of any other stream of the same length in the State, she has in a few miles of each other, Vauluse, Graniteville and Bath. The first two are already well known, and therefore we pass them by. But what and where is Bath? This may well be asked. Two years ago it was the site of an old saw mill that had been abandoned, the timber, mill, dam, all gone, it was known only as what had once been Milton's Mills. Now it is a beautiful little village in the South Carolina Railroad, equidistant between Graniteville and Hamburg. The fine water power of the creek

and Augusta, as they are in New York. Southern publishers will then be able to compete successfully with the Northern, and thus, in the end, we shall learn and practice self-reliance.

From the Wilmington Commercial, Wilmington and Manchester R. Road. By no one has the progress of this enterprise been watched with more anxiety and interest from its commencement, than by us. The vast results to flow, not only to this town, but to the portion of the State through which it runs, in developing resources of agricultural wealth by affording facilities to market, presented considerations of no little importance to the philanthropist and patriot.

In 1848, when only about \$860,000 were subscribed in the capital stock. It was decided by more than two thirds of the stockholders to begin work. This was regarded by many as a fool hardy adventure, and failures were predicted and ridiculed in every direction except here and along the line, and even here for a time, with a few honorable exceptions, the final success was almost despaired of.

But an energy and determination animated those who commenced, to press forward, relying as they did for the progress of events, then faintly dawning to guide them onward.

In the winter of 1848, the Legislature of South Carolina made a subscription of \$200,000 in the stock of the S. C. R. R. Co., then at 68; conditioned to be paid when the sum of \$750,000 of capital stock was subscribed from other sources. The condition of this subscription was, after hard exertions, complied with, and in 1850 the Legislature of North Carolina subscribed a like sum in the stock of the W. & R. R. Co., then at 50. Neither of these sums were immediately available, but still the work progressed, to be paid for in the stock of the Company at par. The contractors in South Carolina, clinging on with a determination not to be baffled by croaking or predictions of defeat. The town of Wilmington also came forward, after hard fought contests, and put up her \$100,000 and issued her bonds to pay the stock on which the Company agreed to pay interest for a term. With these bonds, and the sales of the S. C. R. R. stock, which had advanced, the Board of Directors determined to purchase 6000 tons of Iron, and contracts were made at \$41 and \$42 for the same, deliverable in Charleston and Wilmington.

We would willingly describe the process of manufacture, but could not do so intelligibly without proper drawings. The following skeleton may, however, serve to give some idea of the successive steps in the process. The rags, as we said before, are passed into the second sto-

ry of the building. There they are sorted, dusted and cut, and thence are passed down into the Cylinder Bleach. This is a large iron hollow cylinder, six or eight feet in diameter, and fifteen to twenty feet long. It is revolved by water power, and when filled and in motion, a stream of steam constantly passes through it. This gives the rags their first bleaching. After this they are passed into the engines—a sort of iron tub, at the bottom of which is an inclined plane, traversed with knives, with their edges slanting upwards, above which revolves a succession of blades, set into a cylinder. In these engines the rags are thoroughly washed, and slightly reduced to pulp. Thence they are passed into the steep chests for a thorough bleaching. Thence the heating engines receive, and with their sharp knives, reduce them to a complete paste. This is passed into the stuff chest, whence it is transferred to the machines, which, through their succession of rollers, and hollow cylinders heated with steam, roll it out into dry white paper, ready for the folder. The web of paper, before it reaches the cutters, may be of any width up to 66 inches—the width of the machines, and its length is limited only by the supply of the pulp—that being constant, the operator may roll out a continuous web of as many thousand yards as he chooses.

Mr. Walker, the agent of the Company, is now receiving from the mill daily supplies of book, news, and brown paper. As yet the demand has been greater than the supply, but he hopes soon to be able to supply all his customers with every desirable quality. The success of this enterprise, considered certain, will

of press and wagon

lumber may reach our market.

The great southern mail has been secured for four years at least, and our eastern track will penetrate the cotton region in time this fall to attract it thither, as the cheapest and quickest outlet, the western end being delayed by what we conceive the suicidal policy of the South Carolina Railroad in not delivering iron.

Sooner than we expected; sooner even than we now think, will the resources of a region of timber and an improving cotton region be in a few hours of us, and in view of it, is there any one who regrets the investment made, either by themselves as individuals, or by the corporation? The town is paid in the increased price of its real estate alone.

The Board of Directors have had the foresight to calculate coming events, and have ample facilities in a water front of 1-1/2 miles to accommodate any amount of trade.

The reliable resources of the Company amount now to upwards of \$400,000, and we learn that the estimate of the Engineer in that (including \$50,000 for contingencies.) \$450,000 will finish the road with depots, cars, machinery and every thing to put it in successful operation.

Some of these resources cannot at once be realized; a part of the stock subscription is not yet due, and a part is unpaid, (we regret to say the greater portion in Wilmington.) and rather than delay the work the Board are making arrangements to sell \$200,000 2nd mortgage bonds, which it is thought will sell for nearly par, as the security now is at least \$1,600,000 for \$800,000. Whether they succeed or not the funds must be supplied, and the work go on. There is no time for delay and we know it. Once let the grade of South Carolina get a direction here, (and here it must come for a time at a cheaper rate,) and we fear not the result.

With what has been done, we must say we are not only content, but are surprised. It shows what self-reliance and perseverance will do for those who honestly and fearlessly grapple with difficulties with a determination to overcome them.

We have been thus particular in giving a detail of the progress of this enterprise, in order to show our Fayetteville and other friends what may be done when seriously undertaken.

We will at another time call attention to the contemplated work of reaching the coal mines and connecting our road with it. Only 40 miles are necessary to reach them from Fayetteville, and only 50, if that,

The Company then came forward with their mortgage bonds, (the payments of stock not being sufficient to justify large contracts, or further purchase of Iron, as instalments were payable every 90 days,) a portion of which are not yet realized.

By putting these bonds in market to the extent of \$600,000, with a fair exhibit of the Company's prospects, public confidence was secured and the net sales reached within a fraction, if not quite 90 to the 100; a sale under the circumstances far better than the average of new works, with as little as was then done.

The balance of the iron, 7,000 tons, and 8 locomotives, were secured by these bonds, which put the Company beyond contingency.

The saving in these transactions, compared with the present prices of iron, is scarcely less than \$400,000, and in the work, compared with the present prices of labor, perhaps \$1,000,000. The Board in our judgment have applied these funds to the best advantage. Instead of expending them on costly points of the road, they have pushed forward the track from both termini, and are thus enabled from the income of the road to realise something to meet future demands. The work across Eagles' Island is let, and will, we learn, be completed by 1st July.

The whole of the cylinders have arrived from the foundry for the Pee Dee Bridge, and that work is in efficient hands. The track from the eastern terminus is being pushed forward with energy, and we are beginning to feel and soon will realize its effects. In the original estimate, 20,000 barrels of naval stores were put down after the road was finished. This year the estimate is that 50,

dozen lines in the plainest language, he could not put pen to paper, though the attempt was made fifty times in the course of two days. At length he was forced to throw himself into a pail and perform a long journey to deliver orally what might have been done in one minute by the pen.

"In half an hour after this task was performed he sat down and wrote an ode descriptive of his own state of nervous irritability, which would not have done discredit to the pen of Byron.

"The author of this essay has himself been so enervated by a fit of what is called indigestion as to be utterly incapable of breaking the seal of a letter for twenty-four hours; though at all appearance in good health at the time. Equally astonishing and unaccountable is the degree of timidity, terror, incapacity, or whatever other magic spell it is, which annihilates for a time the whole energy of the mind, and renders the victim of dyspepsia afraid of his own shadow, or other things more unsubstantial, if possible, than shadows."

Again he says: "It is under the influence of such paroxysms as those, I am thoroughly convinced that nine-tenths of those melancholy instances of suicide shock the ears of the public take place.

HIGHLAND PRIDE.—The following is an amusing instance of the tenacity with which the Highlanders hold to the honors and antiquity of their kindred. A dispute arose between Campbell and McLean upon the subject. McLean would not allow that the Campbells had any right to rank with the McLeans in antiquity, who, he insisted, were in existence as a clan from the beginning of the world. Campbell had a little more biblical lore than his antagonist, and asked him if the clan of McLean was before the flood.

"Flood! what flood?" said McLean. "The flood you know that drowned all the world but Noah and his family and his flocks," said Campbell.

"Pooh! you and your flood!" said McLean. "The clan was afore the flood." "I have it in my bible," said Campbell, "and the name of McLean going into Noah's ark." "Noah's Ark?" retorted the other, "contempt! who ever heard of a McLean that had not a bout of his own?"

A FORTUNE.—It is stated by the Baltimore Sun that Col. Crenshaw, of New Orleans, by a recent decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, comes into possession of \$500,000 worth of Texas Lands.

THE NEW EMPRESS OF FRANCE had fifty-eight splendid wedding dresses made a few days previous to her marriage. Her pocket handkerchiefs, it is said, cost 2,000 francs a piece.

with grades of 15 feet per mile to connect Fayetteville with the Manchester Road. Ten years ago this might be considered a doubtful project; now it is as certain as that the sun will rise in the east to-morrow. There is too much wealth about us to stay there. We know what sacrifices and exertions can do, and how they are repaid. Let our past history be some assurance of the future. We will do our part.

Mind and Body.

Dr. James Johnson, in his essay on "indigestion," has the following excellent remarks on the influence which the condition of the body has on the mind and heart:

"Many a happy and lucky thought has sprung from an empty stomach. Many an important undertaking has been rushed by a bit of undigested pickle; many a well laid scheme has failed in execution from a drop of green bile; many a terrible and merciless edict has gone forth in consequence of an irritated gastric nerve. The character of men's mind has often suffered from temporary derangements of the body; and thus health may make the same man a hero in the field whom dyspepsia may render imbecile in the Cabinet."

Mr. J. illustrates his subject in the following manner:

"I lately saw a gentleman of brilliant talents and prolific genius who could sit down and write extemporaneously whole pages of superior poetical effusion, with scarcely an effort of mind, and who would yet, from a sudden derangement of the digestive organs, be so completely and quickly prostrated in intellectual power as not to be able to write three lines on the most common subject. On a late occasion, when he had merely to communicate an address to a friend,

dozen lines in the plainest language, he could not put pen to paper, though the attempt was made fifty times in the course of two days. At length he was forced to throw himself into a pail and perform a long journey to deliver orally what might have been done in one minute by the pen.

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